

CLAIMS

1. A method for charging intelligent network subscribers for message communication, in which method
account data of a subscriber is maintained in the intelligent network,
a message communication charging file is formed,
a message communication bill of the intelligent network subscriber
is retrieved, and
the account data of the subscriber is updated with the message
communication bill.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time,
a limit value is set for credit data,
after an update, a check is made to see if the account data is bigger
than the limit value, and
if the account data is smaller than the limit value, the use of
chargeable message communication services is blocked from the subscriber.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the message
communication bill retrieval and account data update is performed at predefined intervals.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein
the account data of the subscriber is maintained in the intelligent
network by maintaining a first set of account data on the subscriber's balance
and a second set of account data on the buffer sums changing the balance,
the account data of the subscriber is updated in two stages.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein
- in the first stage, the account data is updated with the message
communication bill by adding it to the second set of account data,
- in the second stage, the account data is updated utilizing a charging
mechanism of the intelligent network by replacing the first set of account
data with the sum of the first set and the second set of account data and by
initializing the second set of account data after that.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein each stage is executed at predefined intervals which need not be the same for both intervals.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message communication is short message communication.

8. A telecommunication system comprising
an intelligent network or a connection to an intelligent network,
a network transmitting short messages,
first means for generating a message communication charging file,
memory for maintaining the account data of the intelligent network
subscriber,
wherein the system also comprises
second means for retrieving the message communication bill of the
intelligent network subscriber from the charging file, and
update means responsive to the second means for updating the account data of the intelligent network subscriber with the message communication bill.

9. A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein
the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time,
the update means (SCP, SM-Ch, CI) are arranged to check after
the update if the account data is bigger than the predefined limit value and, if
the account data is not bigger than the limit value, to send information on this
to the network transmitting message communication, and
the network transmitting message communication (PLMN) is arranged, as a response to the information, to block the transmission of chargeable short messages from said subscriber.

10. A system as claimed in claim 9, the system comprising at least one mediation device (MD) which, as a response to the information, blocks the transmission of chargeable message communication from said subscriber.

11. A system as claimed in claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein the second means are adapted to retrieve credit data at predefined intervals.

12. A system as claimed in claim 8, 9, or 10 wherein
the second means (PSMCC) are arranged to request the update
means to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber, and
the update means comprise a charging interface (CI) which is ar-
5 ranged to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber as a
response to said request.

13. A system as claimed in claim 8, 9, or 10, wherein the message
communication is short message communication.
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